

REMARKS

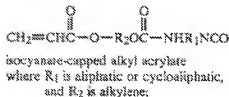
Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application, and are subject to a Restriction requirement and election of species as follows:

Group I, Claims 1-7 and 11-12, drawn to a compound and composition, comprising at least one urethane group and having the formula I.

Group II, Claims 8-10, drawn to a process for preparing compounds which can be activated by actinic radiation and having general formula I.

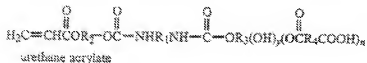
In restricting the claims the Examiner has asserted that the inventions do not related to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, under PCT Rule 13.2, due to the lack of the same or corresponding special technical features. More specifically, the Examiner has asserted that the common technical feature of the claims is anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,849,321 (hereafter referred to as '321).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. '321 teaches an intermediate compound (an isocyanate-capped alkyl acrylate) having the formula:



This intermediate does not meet the requirements of formula I set forth in Applicants' claim I. Applicants' formula I expressly requires that when n is 1, as it would be in the isocyanate-capped alkyl acrylate of '321, X (corresponding to R_1 of '321's isocyanate-capped alkyl acrylate for the sake of argument only) *must be* substituted with a substituent of Applicants' formula II. The isocyanate-capped alkyl acrylate disclosed in '321 does not meet this criteria since its disclosed isocyanate group does not meet the specified criteria for Applicants' formula II substituent that is required when Applicants' n is 1.

In addition to the intermediate compound, '321 also teaches a final compound (a urethane acrylate) having the formula:



However, '321's final compound also does not meet the requirements of Applicants' formula I.

Applicants' express formula 1 of claim 1 mandates that the bracketed substituents on X be the same when $n=2$ or more. That is, two separate brackets would be required if the molecule could be nonsymmetrical.

In contrast, the R_1 of the urethane acrylate of '321 has two different substituents. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the pending claims do have a special technical feature and hence have unity of invention. In view of the these arguments, it is respectfully submitted that unity of invention does exist. Accordingly, restriction is not permissible under 37 CFR 1.499. Reconsideration and removal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

However, per the requirements of 37 CFR 1.499 and 37 CFR 1.43, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-7 and 11-12, drawn to a compound and composition, comprising at least one urethane group and having the formula I, with traverse. This election is being made without prejudice to Applicants' rights with respect to the unelected claims, including the right to file divisional application(s) thereon. If the restriction requirement is maintained, Applicants hereby authorize the cancellation of claims 8-10 as being drawn to a nonelected invention.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for an election of species, Applicants hereby elect species 1-5, disclosed in Example 2 on page 34 of the Specification as filed, having the chemical name 1,3-bis(N-2-acryloyloxyethyloxycarbonylamino)-propane. This species reads on claims 1-7 and 11-12.

If the Examiner has any questions as to this response, the undersigned is available for a telephone conference at the number below.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the Application and pending claims are patentable in view of the foregoing remarks. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Undersigned by telephone if direct conversation would be helpful.

Respectfully Submitted,

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